

**THIRTY-FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
KANSAS STATE  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

**1100 STATE AVENUE**

**KANSAS CITY, KANSAS**

**JUNE 30,**

**1 . 9 . 4 . 6**





THIRTY-FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
KANSAS STATE  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

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FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING  
JUNE 30, 1946

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ANDREW F. SCHOEPPEL, *Governor*

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OLIVE I. THOMPSON, *Superintendent*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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	PAGE
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.....	4
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	5
SUMMER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS.....	8
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.....	9
SALARIES AND WAGES.....	12

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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*To the Honorable Andrew F. Schoepel, Governor, and  
The State Board of Regents:*

DEAR FRIENDS—Pursuant to law, the thirty-fifth biennial report of the Kansas State School for the Blind at Kansas City, Kansas, is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully yours,  
OLIVE I. THOMPSON, *Superintendent.*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

All persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years who are residents of the state of Kansas and who, because of a defect in vision are unable to pursue their education in public schools for the fully sighted are eligible for admission to the Kansas School for the Blind. Our school holds a Class "A" rating with the State Board of Education and offers its pupils a course of study comparable with that of the best schools in Kansas. Well-furnished living quarters, laundry, books and other educational materials, excellent meals, medical attention, some hospitalization, and opportunity for the finest of ophthalmological care are provided, *without cost*, to all in attendance. Parents need only to pay a ten-dollar entrance fee, transportation costs, for incidentals, and for clothing.

The Kansas School for the Blind is in no sense an institution for custodial care. It is, in every sense of the word, a *modern residential school* which meets every academic, health, and housing standard.

The regular school term begins in September and ends on or about June 1 of the following year. Children may go home for a week-end once each month, for two weeks at Christmas, for four days at Thanksgiving, and for four days at Easter. Visiting hours are scheduled for each Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Most of the children who attend school have some vision—less than one-third are totally blind. These children are as happy, healthy and mentally alert as those who attend school for the fully sighted. Our many interested visitors see busy, enthusiastic girls and boys working, playing, and laughing.

There is nothing mysterious about educating visually handicapped children. The methods of teaching and the materials used parallel those used in the best schools for the fully sighted. This is especially true since we have established our Sight-Saving room where large type print materials are studied. For those whose vision is too limited to permit them to take advantage of our modernly equipped Sight-Saving room, emphasis is placed upon tactful materials. Brailled books and magazines, models of all kinds, maps, the talking book, the radio, the dictaphone, and field trips bring knowledge, relaxation, and pleasure to our pupils.

Kansas City offers many educational, cultural, and recreational activities. Symphony concerts, the legitimate theater, nationally known concert artists, art museums, Swope Park, the cinema, etc., are here for all to enjoy.

Athletics, social clubs, Y-Teens, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and dramatics provide many and varied outlets for our pupils in school and give them many valuable outside contacts.

We offer eight years of grade-school work, four years of high-school training, and a year of postgraduate work. Our graduates are admitted to accredited colleges and universities without further examination. Although few continue their schooling through college, those who do so have done excellent work.

It is an injustice to deprive a partially sighted child of the opportunities offered by this school. Parents soon discover, much to their regret, that the later they enter their child in our school the more difficult it is for him to develop.

### HIGH SCHOOL

Our high school offers the following subjects in the literary, commercial, music, and vocational fields: Algebra, geometry, general mathematics, three units of English, three units of history, general science, physics, Spanish, American Way of Life, physiology, psychology, typewriting, music, clothing, shop, sociology, script, cooking and vocations. We meet all the requirements of the State Board of Education covering equipment, length of terms and class periods, teacher qualifications, and units required for graduation.

The shortage of qualified personnel has prevented us from employing a teacher of speech, a qualified librarian, and a director of physical education.

### VOCATIONS

In our shop department we strive to develop those manual skills and vocational arts which will help our pupils become workers capable of earning an average living. We hope soon to be able to purchase a metal lathe, drill press, rotary saw, and other shop tools, and thus increase the number of subjects offered in the vocations department.

Piano tuning and repairing, simple hand tools, broom, brush, and mop making, hammock and mat tying, chair caning, leather work, plastics, basketry, mattress making and upholstering are now included in our shop curriculum.

### MUSIC

Music plays an important role vocationally and avocationally in the life of the blind. Every child, therefore, is given the opportunity to study voice, piano, and/or any other musical instrument for which he shows definite talent.

Classes in orchestra, music appreciation, theory of music, history of music, staff notation, etc., are open to high-school pupils.

A large library of brailled and print music, volumes of symphonic records, a recordio, and fine orchestral instruments are available to those interested in music.

### LIBRARY

The tremendous task of recataloguing our library was partially completed this last year. All library rooms have been repainted and varnished. Much remains to be done and we hope soon to employ a qualified librarian.

We have over 6,000 volumes of brailled books and talking book records in our library. Talking book machines, print books, magazines, models, and a new opaque projector are distributed from the library. The adult blind of Kansas may borrow books.

Through a federal grant we are able each year to purchase \$1,500 worth of books, records, and equipment.

### HOME ECONOMICS

Every girl who graduates from high school must have successfully completed one year each of foods and clothing. The casual visitor to our school is amazed at the pupils' ability to prepare tasty dishes, alter their clothes, and make new

garments. Home living, budgeting, buying, diet, serving of foods, the social graces, and many areas of home making are taught.

Girls may study both cooking and sewing for two years.

We must mention our delight in having a new refrigerator.

The individual cooking units now in use are deteriorating so new ones must soon be purchased.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Because of the limitations on physical activity which blindness enforces, particular attention is given to the selection of sports and exercises.

Now that wartime travel restrictions have been lifted competition with other state schools in track may be continued.

Educators of the partially sighted have long recognized the value of swimming as an activity and sport. It has great therapeutic value and is a sport in which the blind can compete on equal terms with other girls and boys.

Our pupils do not have a level playground where they can run and play without fear. They sorely need such a playground—a playground with a softball diamond, a 100 yard straight-a-way track, jumping pit, etc.

If we are to maintain our Class "A" rating, a qualified director of physical education must be hired for the school year 1947-1948.

#### HEALTH

We have always been proud of our health program. Now that the war is over, we again have the services of a physician and ophthalmologist in addition to a full time registered nurse. Our hospital is modern and well equipped with a dispensary, six beds, bathroom, and nurse's quarters. Children come to the hospital three times each day to receive prescribed treatments and at any other time deemed necessary.

Parents must give written permission before operations are performed.

#### DORMITORIES

All children attending school live in dormitories. These dormitories are kept immaculately clean. All have been newly papered, painted, and renovated.

#### THE SIGHT-SAVING PROGRAM

There are nearly 500 children in Kansas whose vision is so defective that they cannot read the usual regular textbook print. Special rooms, superior lighting, large type books, and other equipment are essential to their average progress in school. Since we had either already enrolled some of these boys and girls or had requests to do so, we established a Sight-Saving room—thanks to a generous appropriation by the legislature.

Here these partially sighted youngsters prepare their lessons under optimum study conditions using large type books so as to conserve vision. They recite in our regular classrooms.

Although delivery of some equipment has been delayed due to shortages, we have a room and a program which meets the highest standards prescribed by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

This present Sight-Saving room is but the beginning. We anticipate such a demand on our Sight-Saving facilities from parents of Kansas girls and boys that can only be satisfied by making each room a Sight-Saving room.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Less than one-third of our pupils are totally blind. The rest have partial vision. The name of our school—Kansas School for the Blind—is, therefore, a misnomer. We suggest, again, that it be changed to the “Kanas School for the Visually Handicapped” or “Kansas Braille and Sight-Saving School.” This change in name is especially important now that our Sight-Saving program has started.

New regulations of the State Board of Education make it mandatory for us to employ three new teachers—a qualified director of physical education, a trained librarian, and a speech instructor.

## SUMMER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Each year during June and July the Kansas State School for the Blind conducts a summer school for adults handicapped in vision, as there are many persons who lose their sight after they are grown.

The school will furnish room, board, laundry and all school materials free of charge to legal residents of Kansas. Students must pay their own transportation and furnish their own clothing.

Adult education meets the need of a group when it provides an opportunity for the “finding of one’s self.” This need is met in our summer session for adults handicapped in vision. During June and July of each year, enthusiastic adults are beginning life all over again; for many of them it is their first experience in the land of touch, and their eager participation in every activity nets them a goodly return. Many who come with downcast spirits and pessimistic attitudes soon find themselves developing spirits of hope and optimism, and before long, they forget their handicap in the realization of the ability they possess to take their rightful places in their communities.

Braille—the touch system of reading and writing—is taught to all who attend the summer session. This knowledge opens many doors of interest because it affords to the book lover, countless sources of information; to the musician, the advantage of mastering the works of the artists; to the student, the latest findings of the scientists; and to the correspondent, the privilege of communication with friends and acquaintances.

The problem of self support is a major one, and the instruction in industrial arts and handcrafts affords an opportunity for discovering abilities in these areas of learning. Toward this end, classes are offered in broom, brush, mop, mat, and mattress making; in piano tuning, upholstering, basketry, rug weaving, chair caning, cooking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, leathercraft, plastic and bead jewelry. Through these mediums of learning, skills are developed and new crafts are mastered and frequently, because of this knowledge, employment is obtained for those who have become proficient in these arts.

A large percent of those who attend summer school take typing, English, spelling, current events and Bible study. A few become dictaphone operators.

The principal of our summer school is also the field representative of the State School for the Blind. This dual position is an inseparable one as many projects are begun during June and July which must be completed in the homes of our blind folks.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TABLE No. 1.—Appropriations for fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946

	1945	1946
<b>Salaries and Wages:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$2,690.45	\$4,176.86
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	47,750.00	71,266.00
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$50,440.45</b>	<b>\$75,442.86</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	46,263.59	65,402.20
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>\$4,176.86</b>	<b>\$10,040.66</b>
<b>Maintenance and repairs:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year .....	\$12,546.71	\$19,563.15
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	31,000.00	40,180.00
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$43,546.71</b>	<b>\$59,743.15</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	23,983.56	39,666.49
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>\$19,563.15</b>	<b>\$20,076.66</b>
<b>Books:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$0.93	.....
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	300.00	\$500.00
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$300.93</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	300.93	391.49
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$108.51</b>
<b>Summer School Adult Blind:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$5,394.04	\$422.91
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	7,000.00	.....
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$12,394.04</b>	<b>\$422.91</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	11,971.13	422.91
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>\$422.91</b>	<b>.....</b>
<b>Summer School Miscellaneous Supplies:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$502.73	\$365.39
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	1,800.00	.....
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$2,302.73</b>	<b>\$365.39</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	1,937.34	365.39
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>\$365.39</b>	<b>.....</b>
<b>Repair and permanent improvements:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$640.28	.....
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	2,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$2,640.28</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	2,640.28	2,043.93
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$956.07</b>
<b>Playgrounds and Playrooms Equipment:</b>		
Reappropriated for fiscal year.....	\$13.67	\$311.01
Appropriated for fiscal year.....	500.00	500.00
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$513.67</b>	<b>\$811.01</b>
Expended during fiscal year .....	202.66	277.05
<b>Unexpended balance June 30.....</b>	<b>\$311.01</b>	<b>\$533.96</b>
<b>Reappropriated for fiscal year:</b>		
Wire fence and metal posts .....	\$2,000.00	.....
Resurfacing walks and drives.....	860.00	.....
Building crushed rock drive.....	1,280.00	.....
Repair roof on Administration Bldg.....	1,419.05	.....
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>\$5,559.05</b>	.....
Expended during fiscal year .....	5,559.05	.....

Repair Roof on Hospital:			
Appropriated for fiscal year.....			\$650.00
Totals .....			\$650.00
Expended during fiscal year .....			000.00
Unexpended balance June 30.....			<u>\$650.00</u>
Chimney on Heating Plant:			
Appropriated for fiscal year.....			\$3,000.00
Totals .....			\$3,000.00
Expended during fiscal year .....			000.00
Unexpended balance June 30.....			<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Equipment for Sight Saving Class:			
Appropriated for fiscal year.....			\$3,000.00
Expended during fiscal year .....			2,050.26
Totals .....			<u>\$949.74</u>
Fees:			
Unexpended balance June 30 .....	\$389.77	\$1,208.04	
Received and remitted to treasurer.....	4,374.03	3,517.19	
Totals .....	\$4,763.80	\$4,725.23	
Expended during fiscal year .....	3,555.76	3,459.65	
Unexpended balance June 30.....	\$1,208.04	\$1,265.58	<u></u>
Recapitulation:			
Total amount appropriated .....	\$117,697.86	\$146,935.32	
Total amount collected from fees .....	4,763.80	4,725.23	
Totals .....	\$122,461.66	\$151,660.55	
Total amount expended .....	96,414.30	114,079.37	
Unexpended balance June 30.....	\$26,047.36	\$37,581.18	<u></u>

TABLE No. 2—Receipts and disbursements of fees for fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946

	1945	1946
Unexpended balance at beginning of year .....	\$389.77	\$1,208.04
Received and remitted to treasurer:		
Brooms .....	3,078.27	2,222.70
Entrance fees .....	692.50	605.00
Refunds .....	46.34	68.50
Junk .....	35.83	12.12
Braille paper .....	31.97	3.10
Sunimer School .....	489.12	605.77
Totals to be accounted for .....	<u>\$4,763.80</u>	<u>\$4,725.23</u>
Expended for salaries and wages .....	\$1,438.31	\$1,153.29
Expended for commissaries .....	334.43	367.79
Expended for fuel and light .....	389.47	220.58
Expended for ordinary repairs .....	1,295.69	1,594.86
Expended for extraordinary repairs .....	97.86	123.13
Total .....	<u>\$3,555.76</u>	<u>\$3,459.65</u>
Unexpended balance June 30 .....	1,208.04	1,265.58
Total amount accounted for .....	<u>\$4,763.80</u>	<u>\$4,725.23</u>

*Thirty-fifth Biennial Report*

11

TABLE No. 3—Fuel account for fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946

	<i>1945</i>	<i>1946</i>
Coal . . . . .	\$593.44	\$409.99
Freight . . . . .	266.13	183.56
Hauling . . . . .	229.09	238.52
 Total . . . . .	 \$1,088.66	 \$832.07
Number of tons . . . . .	191.45	129.85
Average price per ton . . . . .	\$5.68	\$6.57
Gas . . . . .	\$397.22	\$396.83
Number thousand feet used . . . . .	2,584.00	2,745.00
Average price per thousand . . . . .	.23	.23
Oil . . . . .	\$2,989.04	\$3,251.24
Number gallons used . . . . .	98,993	\$1,055.88
Average price per gallon . . . . .	.302	.317
 Total amount . . . . .	 \$4,474.92	 \$4,480.14

TABLE No. 4—Revolving fund for fiscal year ending June 30, 1946

	<i>1945</i>	<i>1946</i>
Cash in hand of superintendent: . . . . .	\$500.00	\$500.00

TABLE No. 5—Student fund account fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946

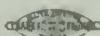
	<i>1945</i>	<i>1946</i>
On hand July 1 . . . . .	\$13.34	\$26.69
Received during year . . . . .	230.40	236.91
 Total . . . . .	 \$243.74	 \$263.60
Withdrawn during year . . . . .	217.05	227.24
 Balance on hand July 1 . . . . .	 \$26.69	 \$36.36

TABLE No. 6—Boys' shop industry fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946

	<i>1945</i>	<i>1946</i>
Receipt from sale of: . . . . .		
Brooms . . . . .	\$3,010.32	\$2,149.50
Sundries . . . . .	67.95	73.20
 Totals . . . . .	 \$3,078.27	 \$2,222.70
 Amount paid out of shop: . . . . .		
Paid out for broomcorn . . . . .	\$1,249.89	\$1,620.85
Paid out for labor . . . . .	292.58	301.75
Paid out for freight . . . . .	50.45	30.50
 Total . . . . .	 \$1,592.92	 \$1,953.10
 Broom supplies on hand: . . . . .		
Broomcorn . . . . .	\$415.55	\$105.00
Brooms . . . . .	224.00	147.00
Supplies . . . . .	845.80	17.60
 Total amount accounted for . . . . .	 \$3,078.27	 \$2,222.70

## SALARIES AND WAGES

TITLE OR OCCUPATION	Number of employees	Paid in fiscal year 1945	Number of employees	Paid in fiscal year 1946
Superintendent.....	1	\$2,250.00	1	\$3,000.00
Clerk III.....	1	1,345.00	1	1,734.00
Steno-Clerk I.....	1	1,260.00	1	1,572.00
Clerk I.....	1	750.00	1	1,060.74
Maintenance Engineer.....	1	1,650.00	1	2,100.00
Groundman.....	1	816.77	.....	.....
Laborer.....	.....	.....	1	1,040.00
Stationary Fireman.....	3	3,295.74	3	5,293.50
Housekeeper I.....	1	972.00	1	1,308.00
Cook II.....	1	934.00	1	1,604.27
Cook I.....	1	741.69	1	959.69
Food Service Helpers.....	5	3,675.85	6	4,286.47
Custodial Helpers.....	3	2,351.45	4	3,390.77
Laundry Workers I.....	2	1,603.13	2	2,516.50
Seamstress.....	1	761.20	1	1,080.00
Home Supervisors I.....	3	2,508.15	5	5,099.46
Principal.....	1	2,150.00	1	2,940.00
Industrial.....	4	5,628.11	4	6,310.00
Literary.....	7	7,510.00	7	9,981.80
Music.....	4	3,780.00	4	5,335.00
Field Representative.....	.....	.....	1	1,740.00
Doctor.....	1	600.00	1	765.00
Ophthalmologist.....	1	600.00	1	765.00
Nurse.....	1	1,080.50	1	1,520.00
Total.....	45	\$46,263.59	49	\$65,402.20



21-5595











